



CALL TO ARTISTS

2013-2015 Tacoma Poet Laureate

Deadline: March 8, 2013

Stipend: \$2,000

Opportunity

The Tacoma Arts Commission announces the fifth annual Tacoma Poet Laureate competition, the winner of which will be named Tacoma Poet Laureate for 2013-2015.

The Tacoma Poet Laureate will hold the title for a period of two years, from May 2013 to April 2015, and receive a stipend of \$2,000, payable in increments upon completion of specific deliverables such as workshops, readings, or performances. He or she will actively contribute to the literary community through readings, performances, workshops, presentations, and/or special projects; participate in Art at Work: Tacoma Arts Month each November; and help produce the 2015 Tacoma Poet Laureate ceremony to announce the next Poet Laureate.

Current Tacoma Poet Laureate Josie Emmons Turner will curate and host a poetry event in conjunction with National Poetry Month, tentatively planned for April 25, 2013 at which the winner of this year's Poet Laureate competition will be awarded. The event will include readings by past Tacoma Poet Laureates as well as a selection of this year's competition applicants, who will share work addressing the competition's theme of *'Home.'*

Eligibility

- Applicant must be a resident of the City of Tacoma. (Do they need to be a resident? Other possible Options: A. Applicant must live or work within the City of Tacoma. B. Applicant must be an active participant in Tacoma's poetry community. C. Applicant must be a resident of Pierce County.) Staff will verify addresses against official City limit map.
- Applicant must be a practicing artist, dedicated to producing poetry (in any form, genre, or style) on a regular basis.
- Applicant must be 18 years or older.
- Applicant cannot be a previous Tacoma Poet Laureate title holder.
- Applicant cannot be a current Tacoma Arts Commission member, City Council member, City of Tacoma staff member, or Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel member.

Duties

The artist selected as Tacoma Poet Laureate must be willing and able to:

- Offer a minimum of two free public workshops each year relating to poetry (four workshops total.)
- Actively contribute to the literary community through readings, performances, workshops, presentations, special projects, etc. as negotiated with the City's Arts Program staff.
- Participate in Art at Work: Tacoma Arts Month programming each November.
- Help produce, with the assistance of the City of Tacoma's Arts Program, an event in April 2015 to announce the winner of the 2015-2017 Tacoma Poet Laureate program.

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Tacoma Poet Laureate Background

The Tacoma Poet Laureate position was founded in 2008 by Urban Grace Church as a way of focusing attention on Tacoma's literary talent by organizing and hosting public readings and workshops in local schools and community events.

In 2011, upon the request of Urban Grace Church, the administration of the Poet Laureate program transitioned to the City of Tacoma's Arts Program. Urban Grace Church is recognized as the founding partner of the program. Past poet laureates include William Kupinse; Antonio Edwards, Jr; and Tammy Robacker. The current poet laureate is Josie Emmons Turner.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic Quality (as exhibited in written and recorded work samples)
- Demonstrated history of involvement and activity within the literary arts
- Willingness to reach out to the public to further the literary arts in Tacoma

Timeline

Application deadline:	March 8, 2013
Review of applications/selection:	week of April 1, 2013
Notification:	by April 12, 2013
Tacoma Poet Laureate ceremony:	tentatively April 25, 2013
Term of service:	May 2013 – April 2015

Submission

We prefer, whenever possible, that submissions be made via e-mail. Applications and any support materials must be submitted no later than 5pm on March 8, 2013 (postmarks acceptable.)

E-mail submission materials to:

Tacoma.Submissions@cityoftacoma.org with the words "Poet_Your Last Name" in the subject line. If your email is over 12 MB in size, you may need to send attachments in several batches.

Or mail/deliver submission materials to:

Tacoma Arts Commission
Tacoma Poet Laureate
747 Market Street, Room 900
Tacoma, WA 98402

Questions?

For questions or assistance, please email Naomi Strom-Avila at nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org or call 253.591.5191.

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Application Checklist

To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria and submit a packet including ALL materials listed below. Incomplete applications and extra materials will not be considered.

Application Form

Fill out the Application Form on page 4.

Letter of Intent

Please type your answers to the following three questions. Limit each answer to no more than 150 words.

1. What do you see is the role a Poet Laureate should play in a community?
2. How would you serve the community as Tacoma Poet Laureate?
3. Briefly summarize two sample workshops or projects you think might appeal to public audiences that you would consider presenting as Tacoma Poet Laureate.

Artist Resume

Resume should be no longer than three pages.

Proof of Residency

Please submit a copy of your Washington State ID, Driver's License or current utility bill with a current address.

Written Poetry Work Samples

Submit five written poems of your own composition that capture your work; four of the poems should be of your choosing, one poem must relate to this year's theme of 'Home'.

Type your name in the upper right corner of each page. Please include the word "Home" underneath your name on the Home-themed poem. Poetry should be typed with an 11 point font size or larger. Written work samples will not be returned; please keep your originals.

Recorded Poetry Work Sample(s)

Submit a CD, DVD, *or* online sample of up to two pieces of your own composition being read aloud.

Recorded work samples will not be returned; please keep your originals.

Audio CD

One audio CD of up to two pieces being read aloud. Please submit the portion of the work that you want the panel to listen to. If the CD contains several pieces, please indicate where you want the panel to start. The panel will review a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

DVD

One DVD of up to two pieces being performed. Please submit the portion of the work that you want the panel to view. If the DVD contains several pieces, please indicate which 'chapter(s)' and title(s) of the piece(s) you want to be viewed. The panel will review a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

Online

URL(s) for up to two pieces being read aloud. Please submit the exact URL(s); if a webpage contains several pieces, please indicate which piece(s) you want to be viewed/heard. The panel will review a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

Work Sample Description Sheet

One page or less, including:

- Applicant's name (upper right corner)
- Titles of pieces included in the work samples
- Description/synopsis of the included work samples (optional)

Tacoma Poet Laureate Application Form

Name:			
Home Address	City	State WA	Zip
Work Address	City	State WA	Zip
Email Address	Website (optional)		
Primary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()		Secondary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()	

References - Please list 2 professional references who can speak to how you would serve in a public role promoting poetry.

Name	Email Address
Title	Organization
Primary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()	
How do you know this reference?	

Name	Email Address
Title	Organization
Primary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()	
How do you know this reference?	

Assurances

- All statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge.
- I am eligible to apply for Tacoma Poet Laureate based on the Eligibility criteria outlined on page 1.

Signature _____

Date _____